

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01966 272330Z

64

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-11

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 716

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PASS USIA/IAA

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, ZA

SUBJECT: ZAMBIAN INDEPENDENCE AND OPENING OF USIS CENTER, LUSAKA

1. PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MRS. CORETTA KING FROM
AMBASSADOR WILKOWSKI:

2. BEGIN QUOTE: DELIGHTED TO HEAR THAT ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT
HAS INVITED YOU TO ATTEND ITS TENTH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS OCTOBER 24 - 25 AS HONORED GUEST AND LOOK FORWARD
TO OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING YOU.

3. AS YOU MAY KNOW THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL BE COMPLETING
CONSTRUCTION ON A NEW U.S. INFORMATION CENTER IN DOWNTOWN
LUSAKA WHICH, IF YOU APPROVE, WILL BE NAMED MARTIN LUTHER
KING JR. AMERICAN CENTER IN MEMORY OF YOUR DISTINGUISHED HUS-
BAND AND PROMINENT AMERICAN. THIS CENTER IS PART OF A NEW
BUILDING COMPLEX WHICH WILL BE DEDICATED BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA
SOMETIME IN LATE JUNE OR EARLY AUGUST 1975. IT IS OUR ARDENT
HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE ALONGSIDE THE
PRESIDENT IN THE OPENING CEREMONIES.

4. WILL UNDERSTAND IF YOUR SCHEDULE IS SUCH AS TO REQUIRE
A CHOICE BETWEEN PARTICIPATION IN ONE OR THE OTHER OF THESE
CEREMONIES, I.E., ZAMBIAN INDEPENDENCE IN FALL 1974, OR
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 01966 272330Z

CENTER OPENING EARLY SUMMER OF 1975. IF THIS IS CASE,

WOULD STRONGLY URGE YOU GIVE PREFERENCE TO CENTER OPENING
OVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS (ASSUMING YOUR CONCURRENCE IN
NAMING CENTER) BECAUSE YOUR CONNECTION WITH FORMER WOULD BE
MORE PERSONAL. EMBASSY UNDERTAKES TO EXPLAIN ANY PROBLEM OF
CHOICE WHICH MAY BE INVOLVED TO ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT AND AM
CONFIDENT THERE WOULD BE UNDERSTANDING ON THEIR PART. END QUOTE.

5. IDEA OF NAMING NEW CENTER IN MEMORY OF MARTIN LUTHER
KING FIRST DISCUSSED WITH JOHN LEWIS, DIRECTOR, VOTER
EDUCATION PROJECT INCORPORATED, ATLANTA,
GEORGIA, DURING HIS VISIT TO ZAMBIA IN DECEMBER 1974,
WHO RECEIVED IT MOST ENTHUSIASTICALLY AND SAID HE WOULD
DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST MRS.
KING TO PARTICIPATE IN OPENING CEREMONIES. REQUEST
DEPARTMENT MAKE COPY OF FOREGOING MESSAGE AVAILABLE TO
LEWIS AND ASK FOR HIS SUPPORT.
WILKOWSKI

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED ABOVE.

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